

Appendix E

2002 IRP Historical Consulting Services: Peyton Slough Shed, DPR 523 form

Principals
Rand F. Herbert
Stephen R. Wee

JRP
HISTORICAL CONSULTING SERVICES

February 8, 2002

Brian Hatoff
URS Corporation
500 12th Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Hatoff:

Enclosed you will find the DPR 523 form that we prepared at your direction to evaluate an agricultural building and its associated corral located in the Peyton Slough (Shell) Marsh in northern Contra Costa County. We have also forwarded an electronic version of the form to you via email.

This building is quite small, and was not recorded in sources that usually document the existence of built resources, such as USGS quadrangles (both 1:62,500 scale and 7.5" topographic) dating between 1898 and 1980, or the coastal mapping prepared by the US Coast and Geodetic Survey (1927 and 1992). JRP reviewed railroad plat maps, official county maps, and aerial photographs of the area as well. Only the aerial photographs recorded any sign of a building at this location and suggest that the shed was in place by 1939. JRP also reviewed records of the local mosquito abatement agency, the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District, however these records contained no mention of the shed or its function. The district records and the aerial photography did confirm that the low-lying tidal marshes in this area have never been heavily developed even though the surrounding high ground has been used by various petroleum refiners and chemical companies for more than a hundred years. These records also indicated that the marsh lands were often leased to local ranchers and farmers for grazing livestock and that the shed evaluated on the enclosed form was probably built in support of this use.

The evaluation of this property is summarized here, while the historic context is presented in full on the DPR 523 form. The shed located in the Peyton Marsh does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor does it appear to be eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources. This property does not appear to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) nor is it associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). The shed is ordinary and utilitarian in design and does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction (Criterion C). In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D); however, this building is otherwise documented and does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard. This property has also been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(1)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines using the criteria outlined in Section

5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code and does not appear to meet the significance criteria as outlined in those guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meta Bunse", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meta Bunse
Senior Historian

cc: Bryon Bass, URS
Enc: 1

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 6

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Peyton Slough Shed

P1. Other Identifier: _____

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*a. County Contra Costa

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Vine Hill Date 1951 T _____; R _____; _____ 1/4 of Sec _____; _____ B.M.

c. Address About 2 miles east of downtown Martinez City Martinez Zip 94553

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____; _____ mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

The shed is located in Peyton (Shell) Marsh, on the north side of Interstate 680, just south of the Benicia-Martinez bridge (Interstate 680).

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The shed sits on the northern side of both the former Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and the parallel Waterfront Road, and to the east of Peyton Slough. The area around the shed is open marshland encircled by various industrial complexes. The shed is a small rectangular building of wood frame construction. It is a simple front gable building sheathed with corrugated metal panels at the roof and walls. In several places the metal panels have deteriorated substantially, or as is the case at the southeast corner, the metal panel is missing altogether. The original opening is at the west gable end and has no door. There are no openings on the other elevations. A timber post and plank corral and a loading chute are located to the north and northwest of the shed. This fencing includes many types of replacement and repair fencing such as bailing wire, chain link, and chicken wire.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP8 (Ancillary Building)

*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Photo #1, January 9, 2002, camera facing north

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
Circa 1930s, 1939 aerial

*P7. Owner and Address:
Rhodia
Mococo Road
Martinez, CA 94553

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)
Amanda Blosser, JRP Historical
Consulting Services, 1490 Drew
Ave, Suite 110, Davis, CA 95616

*P9. Date Recorded: January 23, 2002

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") Letter report to URS Corporation, dated February 8, 2002 by JRP Historical Consulting Services.

*Attachments: NONE ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record
☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record
☐ Other (list) _____

DPR 523A (1/95)

*Required Information

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____

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*NRHP Status Code 6

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Peyton Slough Shed

B1. Historic Name: _____
B2. Common Name: _____
B3. Original Use: Shed B4. Present Use: Shed

*B5. Architectural Style: Utilitarian

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) circa 1930s

*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features: _____

B9. Architect: n/a b. Builder: n/a

*B10. Significance: Theme n/a Area n/a

Period of Significance n/a Property Type n/a Applicable Criteria n/a

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The shed located in the Peyton Marsh does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the evaluation of this property is summarized here, with the historic context is presented on the following continuation sheets. This property does not appear to be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) nor is it associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). The shed is ordinary and utilitarian in design and does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction (Criterion C). In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies (Criterion D); however, this building is otherwise documented and does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard. This property has also been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(1)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code and does not appear to meet the significance criteria as outlined in those guidelines. (See continuation sheet).

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

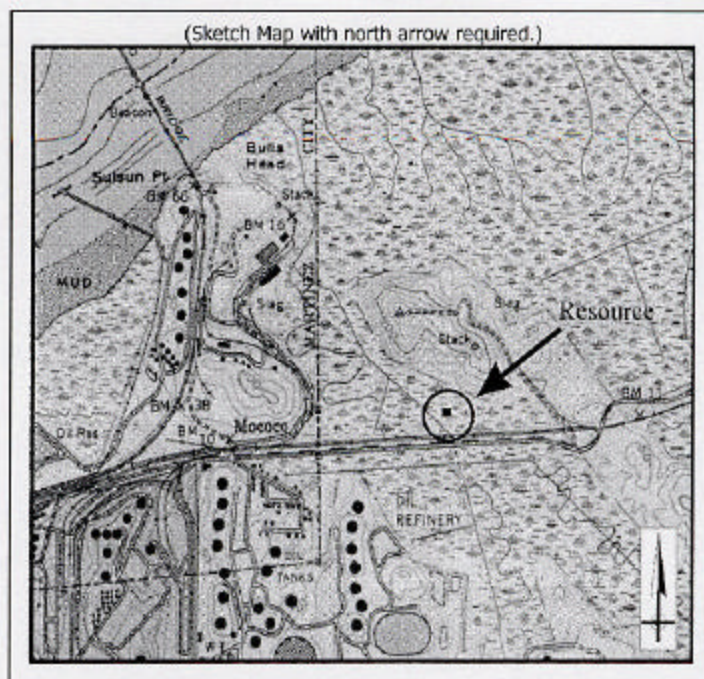
*B12. References: Official county maps (1930, 1938, 1960, 1965, 1972); Aerial photographs (1939, 1950); USGS quadrangles (1898, 1942, 1951, 1959, 1968, 1980); US Coast and Geodetic Survey, *Suisun Bay*, survey 1927-1931, and 1992; Reports to Board of Trustees, CCMVCD, 1927-1960.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Amanda Blosser / Meta Bunse

*Date of Evaluation: February 1, 2002

(This space reserved for official comments.)



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*Recorded by Amanda Blosser

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Peyton Slough Shed

*Date January 23, 2002 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

B10. Significance (continued):

Peyton Marsh (or Shell Marsh), drained by Peyton Slough, is one hydrologic unit of a band of salt marshes located on the southern shore of Suisun Bay extending from Martinez on the west, to Antioch on the east, at the edge of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.¹ The marshes on this side of the bay are less expansive than those to the north because they are confined by the steep northern foothills of Mount Diablo. Peyton Marsh fills the low land between two areas of high ground formed by these foothills, Bull's Head Point and Peyton Hill, and extends inland toward the marsh's southern boundary at Vine Hill. The marsh is bisected by the east-west aligned Union Pacific Railroad tracks (and the parallel Waterfront Road) and diagonally by Interstate 680. At one time the 230 acre marsh split into three reaches south of the railroad line, but changes in inflows, drainage, nearby industrial development and construction of Interstate 680 have altered the shape of this part of the marsh and reduced the total marsh area to approximately 200 acres.

The small building that is the subject of this evaluation is located near the center of the Peyton marsh complex and is at least seventy years old. Because of its small size and utilitarian agricultural function it was never recorded in USGS mapping of the area, but it does appear on a 1939 aerial view of the marshes of northern Contra Costa County. These marshes have been managed by the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District (CCMVCD) since 1927, but are privately owned. CCMVCD minutes and financial records do not show approval of funds for the shed, nor does it appear that the CCMVCD built the shed. The district had a system of annual and biennial maintenance and it does not appear that the shed was constructed during these operations. In addition to routine work, the district initiated more substantial changes to the Peyton Marsh drainage system during the 1940s as industry expanded east of Martinez and encroached on the marsh. The construction of the shed does not appear in any of these records.²

It is most likely that this building was constructed in the 1930s by a tenant-rancher as a shelter for livestock. Individual landowners in the Peyton marsh area, and elsewhere along the bay shore, often used the land for seasonal stock grazing, usually by leasing the land to local ranchers and farmers. By 1930, the last name of the owner of all the Peyton Slough land north of the railroad line was "Butters." The Mountain Copper Company and General Chemical Company owned the higher ground east and west of the marsh, as well as the land south of the railroad. Ownership of swamp or tidelands in California has often been speculative in nature because title to the land is often ambiguous and because reclaiming the inundated land is expensive. These risks, coupled with the economic downturn of the Great Depression apparently caused Butters to default on his holdings. By 1938 the Bank of America owned the former Butters parcel where the shed is now. In the years that followed, official county maps show that petroleum and chemical companies continued to operate on the higher ground and began to acquire the surrounding marshland, although this low land remained undeveloped. Many of the owners of

¹ Peyton Marsh is also known as Shell Marsh because of Shell Oil Company's long-time presence on the southwestern border of the marsh. The company began building a refinery here in 1914 and leased existing refining facilities from American-Oriental Company near the Mococo railroad station during the construction period. At the same time Shell installed a crude oil pipeline running from Coalinga to its new refinery site, a distance of approximately 175 miles. [*Oil Age* (November 1914), 20; (May 1915), 9, 13; (June 1915), 1; (August 1915), 9; (April 1916), 2.]

² Noble M. Stover, "Report to Committee on Organization, Contra Costa County Mosquito Abatement District No. 1," (final submitted March 31, 1927); Manager's reports to the Board of Trustees, Contra Costa Mosquito Abatement District No. 1 [CCMVCD], from 1927 through 1960, CCMVCD records; JRP Historical Consulting Services, "Inventory and Evaluation: Peyton Marsh Drainage System, Contra Costa County California," June 1997.

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Peyton Slough Shed

*Recorded by Amanda Blosser

*Date January 23, 2002 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

marsh land in this area leased it for livestock grazing, duck hunting, or small boat recreation. In some cases, CCMVCD hired the lessees to perform district related abatement work on the marshes, but none of these records mention a shed at this location. As noted above, a small building at the location of the current shed appears on a 1939 aerial. Although many of the subsequent aerial views are unclear, it appears that the building also existed at the time of aerials taken in 1950. This shed was constructed to serve as a livestock shelter, in the 1930s, probably by a tenant rancher, and it continued to serve this function through the present.³

Photographs (cont.)



Photograph 2. Shed and corral, camera facing southeast.

³ "Official Map of Contra Costa County," compiled by R. R. Arnold, 1930 and 1938; Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, "Official Map of Contra Costa County," 1960, 1965, and 1972; USACE, *Carquinez Quadrangle*, scale 1:62,500, edition of 1942; Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc., aerial photographs, Contra Costa County, prepared for USDA, 1939, UC Berkeley Map Collection; Aero Exploration Company, aerial photographs, Contra Costa County, prepared for USDA, 1950, UC Berkeley Map Collection; US Coast and Geodetic Survey, *Suisun Bay*, survey 1927-1931, scale 1:40,000 (Washington D.C.: 1931); US Coast and Geodetic Survey, *Suisun Bay*, survey 1927-1931, scale 1:40,000 (Washington D.C.: 1992).